

Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission
Aloma Dew, Chair, *Owensboro*
Betsy Bennett, Vice-Chair, *Louisville*
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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION
14 REILLY ROAD
FRANKFORT, KY 40601-1132

PAUL E. PATTON
GOVERNOR

June 3, 2002

The Honorable Paul E. Patton
State Capitol
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Governor Patton,

The Environmental Quality Commission (EQC), a seven-member citizen board that advises the Governor and other state officials on environmental matters, held a public forum on Forestry Issues and Needs on May 30 in Morehead, Kentucky.

The forum attracted more than 100 people including mill owners, foresters, citizen activists, woodland owners and loggers. It provided an opportunity for the public to ask questions of federal and state forestry officials and hear from industry and public interest groups.

Based on the concerns expressed at the forum, the commission passed the attached resolution pertaining to Kentucky's forest resources.

We hope you will review our attached resolution and support our recommendations. Please feel free to contact Leslie Cole, Executive Director, at the Commission, if you have any questions concerning the resolution.

We look forward to hearing from you regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Aloma W. Dew".

Aloma Dew, Chair

Cc: Kentucky's Congressional Delegation



*Celebrating 30 years of protecting
Kentucky's environment*

**KENTUCKY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION
RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO KENTUCKY'S
FOREST RESOURCES
MAY 30, 2002**

Whereas, Forests cover an estimated 12.7 million acres – about half of Kentucky's land area, and contribute significantly to our natural heritage, economy, and to the maintenance of all forms of life; and

Whereas, A majority of Kentucky's forestlands – 93 percent – are owned by 306,900 private landowners with the average woodland tract being 38 acres, making the management of these forests a significant challenge; and

Whereas, Kentucky is the 4th leading producer of hardwoods in the nation and logging in the state is now at record levels with harvesting levels predicted to increase according to the Southern Forest Resources Assessment, a study conducted by the U.S. Forest Service; and

Whereas, The 1998 Kentucky Forest Conservation Act has proven to be a useful tool to promote proper logging practices to control runoff pollution, however, it has not been fully funded and improvements can be made to promote greater public outreach and compliance; and

Whereas, Wildfires caused by arson remains a significant threat to Kentucky's forests and is responsible for more than half of the forest fires occurring in the state, yet efforts to apprehend and prosecute arsonists have had little success; and

Whereas, Efforts to manage, conserve and promote the sustainable use of forest resources depends on timely, reliable and accurate information on our forest ecosystems, however, the U.S. Forest Service often takes two to three years to compile and release data on Kentucky's forests after it has been collected.

Now be it resolved by the Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission

1. That the 1998 Kentucky Forest Conservation Act be fully implemented, funded and staffed to ensure its effectiveness to control water pollution from logging sites and promote sustainable management of our forest resources.
2. That a portion of the Phase I Tobacco Settlement monies be allocated to fund the Kentucky Forest Conservation Act's Forest Stewardship Incentive Fund, a cost-share program designed to promote healthy sustainable forests.
3. That the Kentucky Forest Conservation Act be amended to require loggers to file a "notice of intent to log" with landowners and the Kentucky Division of Forestry in order to promote opportunities for sound forest management and practices.
4. That the U.S. Forest Service recognize the urgent need in Kentucky for reliable forest resource data and that data collected as part of its 2000 Forest Inventory of Kentucky and other surveys be compiled and analyzed by the agency in a more timely manner.
5. That the Ky. Division of Forestry and the University of Kentucky, in cooperation with other agencies, work with the U.S. Forest Service to identify specific data and information needs in order to continually assess and monitor forest conditions to make sound management and policy decisions.
6. That arson is a significant public policy issue that threatens public safety, timber quality and the health of our forest ecosystems and that the upcoming Governor's Summit on Arson and Wildland fires is a critical first step to bringing communities together to target this tough issue in a strategic manner.
7. That this resolution be forwarded to Governor Paul Patton; Kentucky's Congressional Delegation; James Bickford, Secretary of the Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet; Dale Bosworth, Chief, U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service; Peter Roussopoulos, Station Director, U.S. Forest Service Southern Research Station; Ben Worthington, Supervisor, Daniel Boone National Forest; and Don Graves, Chairman, University of Kentucky Department of Forestry for consideration and action.

Passed May 30, 2002 by the Kentucky Environmental Quality Commission

Aloma Dew, Chair

Bob Riddle

Patty Wallace

Betsy Rudd Bennett, Vice- Chair

Jean Dorton

Gary Revlett

Serena Williams

May 30, 2002